

D-12 crews give Nighbert credit for new boots, uniforms, safety gear

On Thursday, October 20, Secretary Bill Nighbert told the crews at District 12 that he would see to it that they were provided with a good pair of work boots to go along with uniforms, jackets, and safety gear. On February 21, barely four months later, the “Boot Truck” set up shop in D-12’s parking lot. By this time, most crews already had new uniforms, jackets, and safety vests and shirts. “We’d been spending a hundred dollars or better a year on boots,” said Gene Blackburn, a construction inspector. “They last about a year if you get good ones.” Mike Branham, a heavy equipment operator, said that in his 12 years on the job, the state has never before provided boots. “I was very surprised. It’s great!” Even better than the boots, though, was the sentiment that “Bill Nighbert did what he said he would do on this. He told us he’d get us boots and better uniforms, and he did. That means more than anything. He’s a man of his word.”

There was some fear that the truck wouldn’t make it as far east as District 12. Just the day before it was scheduled to be in Pike County, it was spotted on the shoulder of the Mountain Parkway with two KVE cruisers, one in front and one in back. Apparently the officers thought a mobile boot store sounded slightly suspicious . . . but the subsequent search produced nothing but leather!

